

GIFTED, Week 4
FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 14.1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts (pneumatikos)...

Spirituals [Pneumatikos] = the full range of the Spirit's activity

Gifts [Charism] = "grace gifts" that seem to be a lifetime callings

Manifestations [Phanerōsis] = the supernatural manifestations that belongs to the Holy Spirit exclusively

A better way to understand 1 Corinthians 14.1 might be "Earnestly desire the Holy Spirit's activity, the full range of life in the Spirit which includes His fruits, gifts, and manifestations."

When we think about desiring the fruit of the Spirit, we often think about desiring character development in our own lives. But the fruit of the Spirit is not only what He produces in us, even more so it is who He is. The fruit of the Spirit is the environment that is created where the presence of God is. Where He is, these fruits are in evidence.

Galatians 5.22-23: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

We often relate the experience of being in God's presence to a sense of power, majesty, and awe. This is right. However, feeling God's Presence should also mean, "I feel peace, I feel the absence of striving, I feel the absence of needing to be heard, I feel the desire to overlook other people's faults in the room, I feel the joy of not having to worry about my future, I feel the desire to be aware of the heart wounds of people next to me."

If to desire spirituals is to embrace the full range of life in the Spirit, then when we gather to the Lord we come expectant to experience the environment of His fruit. From that place we are positioned by the Holy Spirit to steward spiritual manifestations. The fruit of the Spirit positions us for the gifts of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is the seedbed of the manifestations of the Spirit.

Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A life sourced by the Holy Spirit will experience the fruit of the Spirit and will produce fruit. What other things can become a source to us? What do those sources produce in the long run?• What is the difference between God ministering to us through one another and enjoying all that comes with healthy community and intimacy versus people becoming our source? How do you know when you are looking to people as your source instead of God?• Do you think we overlook the presence of God in our daily lives? How do we become more aware? How do we rest more in His presence throughout our day?• Do you think we long for manifestations of the Spirit more than the fruit of the Spirit? Why?• Do you think we have devalued fruit in our lives because we think "something else" provides greater evidence of God's presence and working in us?
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